



Northeast Organic Farming Association
37th Annual Summer Conference with Northeast Animal-Power Field Days
August 12-14, 2011
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
www.nofasummerconference.org

Permaculture Track at the NOFA Summer Conference

The workshops in this track present permaculture approaches to organic agriculture and ecological design and offer a wide range of perspectives, skills, and ideas for regenerative land use and creative community building. The 2011 NOFA Summer Conference of which this track is a part also presents many other topics related to organic agriculture and ecological sustainability. Find a complete listing of over 225+ exciting workshops on organic farming, gardening and land care, draft animal-power, homesteading, nutrition, spirituality, food politics, activism, and much, much more at this web page: <http://www.nofasummerconference.org/workshops.php>

*** Registrations received before July 11, 2011 get a \$20 discount.

The conference features presenters from all over the Northeast, nearly 100 exhibitors, workshops and activities for teens and children, an afternoon fair with farm animals, live music and dances, an auction, and an ALL-LOCAL dinner. Stay on campus in the dorms or camp in a tent under the stars.

Keynote Speakers: **Eric Toensmeier**, award-winning author promoting food forestry to sequester carbon worldwide and **Ignacio Chapela**, scientist and activist on GMOs, agri-fuels, and the global food crisis.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2:00-3:30 PM

Ecological Models for Economic Development *Beginner*
Campus Center 811-15

Andrew Faust: Premier permaculture teacher with two decades of experience in Northeast. www.homebiome.com
We need regional plans of economic development that are more self-reliant, ecological, socially attuned, and prosperous for many generations. Learn how to create bioregional economies, farms and communities, using conservation tools and maps to design local foodsheds, decentralized energy, and local economies for the Northeast.

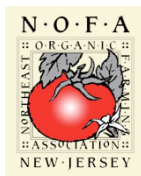
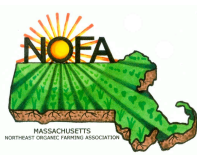
Wildcrafting & Agroforestry in the Northeast *Intermediate*
Campus Center 805-09

Connor Stedman: Wilderness skills teacher and permaculture designer, Connecticut River Valley, MA.
An introduction to the management and stewardship of "wild" landscapes for food, medicine, artisan materials, and biodiversity. We will cover Northeastern land use history; assessment tools for plant communities, habitats, and ecosystems; and ethical/regenerative practices for wildcrafting and ecosystem management. Workshop assumes basic familiarity with permaculture concepts and Northeastern plant species.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 4-5:30 PM

Cultivating Community with Permaculture *All levels*
Campus Center 803

Liz Falk: Community Food Garden Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Common Good City Farm founder.
This session explores engaging people in our land-based projects to build strong, safe, and inclusive communities. We will discuss why community engagement is key to our success as farmers – urban or rural – and how to identify



and create leaders. Framed by permaculture principles and examples from community organizations practicing this work.

Mycoscaping: Mushrooms in the Permaculture Landscape *All levels*
Campus Center Auditorium

Rafter Sass: Permaculture designer, mycophile, research agroecologist, and friendly rabble-rouser.

Only growing plants and animals? You're missing out! There's a whole 'nother Kingdom to explore - and eat. I'll give an overview of easy-entry mushroom growing techniques, and scaling up to market production. I put it in a context of historical and emerging practices, oriented toward ecologically-managed and multifunctional systems.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 8-9:30 AM

Commercial Food Forestry Enterprises *All levels*
Campus Center Auditorium

Eric Toensmeier: Award-winning author promoting food forestry to sequester carbon worldwide.

How are farmers taking the edible forest garden model to a farm scale? This workshop will present enterprise options, marketing strategies, and equipment and infrastructure requirements for regenerative perennial farming strategies. We will also view case studies of food forest businesses.

Permaculture Fundamentals *All levels*
Campus Center 168C

Lisa DePiano: Certified Permaculture designer/teacher and co-founder of the Montview Neighborhood Farm. Permaculture uses ecology as the basis for designing integrated systems of food production, housing, appropriate technology, and community resilience. We'll cover definitions, history, ethics, and some principles & techniques. You will walk away with a framework for understanding the connections between social and ecological health and a method for designing solutions.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 10-11:30 AM

Making Good Food Matter: Strategies for Liberation *All levels*
Brett Lounge 001

Rafter Sass: Permaculture designer, mycophile, research agroecologist, and friendly rabble-rouser.

Felix Wai: Community organizer, ecological designer, PhD student in urban agriculture, and rowdy impresario. Did you get into food production with a vision of an equitable society – only to find yourself producing boutique products for hipsters and yuppies? We can design our movement so we're helping transform society, not just propping up a sick system with an infusion of delicious salad. Come and strategize!

Perennial Crops with Commercial Potential for the Northeast *Intermediate*
Campus Center Auditorium

Eric Toensmeier: Award-winning author promoting food forestry to sequester carbon worldwide.

Benneth Phelps: Commercial vegetable, fruit and small animal farmer at Mosaic Farm.

Get to know hardy perennial crops ready for commercial production. We'll focus on less-known species including perennial vegetables. They have potential as new specialty crops for marketing to restaurants, farmers' markets, and particularly for CSAs. Including perennial salad crops, braising greens, broccolis, edible shoots, and specialty bulbs and tubers, with coverage of a few nuts and fruits.

Regenerative Hillside Farming *Intermediate*
Campus Center 174-76

Keith Zaltzberg: Permaculture teacher and designer, homesteading on 12-acre wet, rocky hillside.

Explore practical, perennial solutions for ecologically-sound farming and gardening on hilly landscapes in the Northeast. Learn strategies and techniques for creating economically-productive systems that prevent erosion, build soil, create wildlife habitat, and yield food, fodder, and other useful materials on steep hillsides. Our illustrated talk will cover terrace building, infiltration swales, vegetation dams, and more.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1-2:30 PM



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Breeding Perennial Crops *Intermediate*
Campus Center Auditorium

Eric Toensmeier: Award-winning author promoting food forestry to sequester carbon worldwide.

Perennial crops are essential for carbon sequestration, while offering other agroecological benefits. However, many of the candidate species for the Northeast require breeding work. This workshop introduces concepts of plant breeding, in many ways no more complicated than seed saving. We will discuss the Bagdersett chestnut and hazel breeding project and suggest projects for backyard breeders.

Cities Will Save Us: Regenerative Urban Ecology *Intermediate-Advanced*
Campus Center 174-76

Rafter Sass: Permaculture designer, mycophile, research agroecologist, and friendly rabble-rouser.

Felix Wai: Community organizer, ecological designer, PhD student in urban agriculture, and rowdy impresario. Think sustainability is all about rural homesteading? Nope! Cities might just be mandatory for a sustainable society. Renew your hope for the urban environment, as we discuss the ways in which cities are uniquely suited for sustainability. We'll integrate agriculture, energy, bioremediation, and permaculture, into a comprehensive picture, plus discussion.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 8-9:30 AM

Perennial Polycultures for the Farm *Advanced*
Campus Center 101

Benneth Phelps: Commercial vegetable, fruit and small animal farmer at Mosaic Farm.

Ethan Roland: A Permaculture designer, teacher, and researcher who practices regenerative design.

Learn the WHY and HOW of perennial multi-species cropping strategies that reduce pest pressure, increase yields, and decrease off-farm inputs. This interactive workshop will explore specific examples of low-maintenance polycultures including plants and animals. For those with limited familiarity, "Permaculture Fundamentals" (#??) and "Perennial Crops with Commercial Potential" (#??) are suggested prerequisites.

Systems + Species: A Peak-Oil Homestead Example *Intermediate*
Campus Center 803

Ben Falk: Land planner and site developer, Mad River Valley, Vermont.

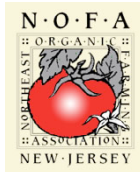
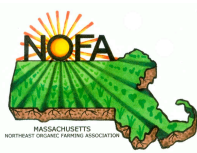
A report on the Whole Systems Design Research Farm, 7 years in. See the systems and species used in converting 10 degraded acres of hillside into a resilient small farm/homestead. Systems include: rice paddies, fuelwood hedges, grazing-perennial plant integration, aquaculture/ponds, swale earthworks, high-performance buildings, soil decompaction, terraquaculture/fertigation, 'edge' species, mushrooms, more.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 10-11:30 AM

Small Woodlot Mgmt for Multiple Yields (even income) *Beginner*
Campus Center 803

Steve Gabriel: Permaculture designer, teacher, and forest farmer in Finger Lakes, NY.

Explore the potential for multiple yields from your underutilized woodlot. Topics we'll cover include forest ecology, crop tree management, mushroom production, tree crop systems, woodworking materials, maple sugaring, and more. Discussion focuses around the best practices to increase ecological health and generate income.



Yum! 6 Years of Perennial Food Production *Intermediate*

Campus Center 174-76

Jonathan Bates: Owns PermacultureNursery.com and homesteads with friends in Holyoke, MA.

Want to see permaculture plantings that work? Through images and discussion enjoy a thriving Edible Forest Garden that produces loads of fruits, roots, shoots, greens, seeds, flowers, mulch, eggs, knowledge and fun. Come learn how to use the plants (and other yields) from this permaculture paradise in your own garden.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1-2:30 PM

Coppice Agroforestry— Fuel, Fodder, Craft & Fun *Intermediate*

Campus Center 168C

Mark Krawczyk: Co-author of Coppice Agroforestry (forthcoming), integrated agroecosystem designer and teacher.

Dave Jacke: Primary author of Edible Forest Gardens & long time ecological designer.

Learn the fundamentals of coppice agroforestry design and management. We'll explore a range of different production systems, a wide array of products and uses for young woody sprouts and polewood, and the most promising species for coppice systems in the northeast.

Hickory Gardens: A Permaculture Homestead *Intermediate*

Campus Center Auditorium

Jono Neiger: A dedicated teacher and practitioner of ecological design and permaculture.

Kemper Carlsen: Parent, gardener, teacher, cook and homesteader who loves to learn.

With stories and pictures we will show our work over the last seven years at our 3-acre permaculture designed homestead. We'll cover passive solar home renovation, rainwater collection, compost toilet, gardens, forest garden, small fruit, kiwi vineyard, terraces, pond, hedgerow, tree crops, chicken forage system, woodland management, and community collaboration.

Starting an Agroecology Fruit & Nut CSA *All levels*

Campus Center 174-76

Susanne Hale: Manages Tending the Wild CSA at NESFI. Teaches agroecology practicum at UMass.

www.TendingtheWildCSA.com

Learn how Northeast growers and aspiring forest gardeners can double our region's fruit and nut production using agroecology, permaculture, and CSA. Participants will learn to select a balanced mix of fruit and nut crops for their acreage and membership size, provide six months of fruit for CSA members, and calculate what plants the orchard needs for its fertility.

TOUR: Montview Neighborhood Farm: Permaculture in the City *All levels*

Lisa DePiano: Certified Permaculture designer/teacher and co-founder of the Montview Neighborhood Farm.

Molly Merrett: Main grower and co-founder of Montview Neighborhood Farm.

We are a 6 year-old, small-scale, no-till, human-powered, organic farm and permaculture demonstration site nestled on 3.2 acres of city-owned conservation land in downtown Northampton, MA. Learn about scything, swale digging, no-till methods, forest gardens, integrating animals, beekeeping, uncommon fruits, rain catchment, gravity fed drip, and perennial polyculture trials. DIRECTIONS: Follow RT. 9 into Northampton. After Bridge Street Cemetery, take a left onto Pomroy Terr. After Pomroy turns into Williams, make first left onto Montview Ave. Farm is down on the left, park on Montview Ave. Allow for 20 minutes driving time. ADDRESS: 38 Henry St., Northampton, MA